

National Security Council

4867. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of meetings of the National Security Council held till date since its inception;

(b) the reasons for non-functioning of NSC at present; and

(c) whether the NSC would be revived?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The National Security Council has met only on one occasion on 5th October, 1990. The National Security Council was constituted on 24th August, 1990, with the Prime Minister as its Chairman. The Ministers of Defence, Finance, Home and External Affairs are Members of this Council. The main endeavour of the National Security Council is to evolve an integrated approach to policy making as it affects national security, taking into account the linkages between the evolving external situation in the political, military and economic fields and our domestic situation. Proposals and suggestions to restructure the National Security Council with a view to making it a more effective body for achieving the purposes for which it was constituted, are presently engaging the attention of Government.

National Agricultural Technology Project

4868. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research propose to launch a National Agricultural Technology Project to reinforce the farm research and education system for meeting the increasing food production needs of the country;

(b) if so, whether World Bank has also decided to provide about Rs. 800 crore support to the NATP aimed at increasing the agricultural productivity and profitability on a sustainable basis;

(c) if so, the details of the scheme launched by the ICAR; and

(d) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :
(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The pre-appraisal of the project by the World Bank is over. The pre-appraisal Mission has tentatively projected a sum of US\$ 249 million.

(c) the immediate objectives of the scheme are :

- Strengthen national capacity in research and extension management, policy planning, priority setting, monitoring and evaluation to meet current and emerging needs of agricultural development;

- Strengthen and/or establish infrastructural and institutional supports to ensure adequate facilities for undertaking desired research and technology development activities;

- Foster linkage mechanisms (i) between research, extension and client groups (ii) between technology and development-oriented departments, programmes, institutions (including NGOs), (iii) between public and private sector initiatives in technology generation, assessment, refinement and transfer, and (iv) to introduce innovative means to share research and extension costs and responsibilities;

- Maximize nation's capacity to effectively benefit from biotechnology and advances in other agro-biological sciences in a global context and develop first-rate international information retrieval and dissemination mechanisms and systems;

- Develop human resource, particularly in frontier areas of science and technology, management skills and technology assessment; and

- Formulate and initiate research and technology development based on programme and matrix approach in priority areas using systems concept so that the overall efficiency of the NARS is improved.

(d) The final appraisal of NATP by the World Bank is expected to be undertaken in July, 1997 and thereafter the project would be finally launched on a regular basis. However, under retroactive financing some of activities would be initiated even before July, 1997 once communication as expected from the World Bank is received.

More Funds for Security

4869. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to spend more amount this year to provide strict security to the Prime Minister, Ex-Prime Ministers and their near family members;